

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-15 AF-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00

USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /154 W
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P R 111807Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3930

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USUN NEW YORK 6540

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 26597

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, FR, UN

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST: GOF ESTIMATES

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FOLLOWING ESTIMATES OF MIDDLE EAST SITUATION FROM FRENCH CONTACTS, INCLUDING CONVERSATION OF VISITING DEPARTMENT OFFICER WITH QUAI SYRIA-IRAQ DESK OFFICER AUDEBERT.

2. FRENCH BELIEVE IMMEDIATE ISRAELI OBJECTIVE IS TO INFLICT AS MUCH PUNISHMENT AS POSSIBLE ON SYRIA. THEREAFTER GOI WILL TURN ITS ATTENTION ON EGYPT. FRENCH THINK EGYPTIAN FRONT CAN GO ONE OF TWO WAYS: EITHER ISRAELI VICTORY IN ONE-TWO DAYS OR INDECISIVE WAR OF ATTRITION. GOF BELIEVES EGYPTIANS HAVE COMPORTED THEMSELVES RELATIVELY WELL, MILITARILY. IT IS CONCERNED THAT EGYPTIANS MAY BECOME OVERCONFIDENT AND ATTEMPT TO GO DEEPER INTO SINAI WITH RESULT OF OVERSTRETCHING SUPPLY LINES.

3. REGARDING IRAQ, FRENCH INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES SHOW APPROXIMATELY 16,000 IRAQUI SOLDIERS IN SYRIA WITH 100 TANKS. QUAI UNINFORMED ABOUT PRESENCE OF TU-22 AIRCRAFT. IT DOES NOT CONSIDER IRAQ COULD BE SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN WAR SINCE BAGHDAD
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WILL HAVE TO DIE DOWN TWO DIVISIONS IN KURDISTAN AND ONE

DIVISION ON IRANIAN BORDER. AT BEST, THEREFORE, IRAQ
COULD COMMIT SOME 30,000 MEN, ONE-HALF ITS LAND
FORCES, TO ISRAELI WAR.

4. QUAI SOURCES BELIEVE IRAQUI STRATEGY WILL DEPEND LARGELY
ON JORDAN. FRENCH DOUBT WHETHER KING HUSSEIN COULD HOLD OUT
AGAINST PRESSURES FOR JOINING WAR IF WAR LASTS MORE THAN
TWO-THREE DAYS MORE. QUAI DOES NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY THAT
SOVIET ADVISORS ARE ASSISTING ARAB MILITARY.
IRWIN

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